

offense.

*Sec. 53.153. REFUND AND ORDERED PAYMENTS. A licensing authority that determines that an entity regulated by the licensing authority has failed to provide the notice required by Section 53.152 to an individual entitled to receive the notice and that the individual's application for an occupational license for which the entity's educational program prepares the individual was denied because the individual has been convicted of an offense shall order the entity to:*

- (1) refund the amount of any tuition paid by the individual to the entity; and*
- (2) pay to the individual an amount equal to the total of the following, as applicable:*
  - (A) the amount of any application fees paid by the individual to the licensing authority; and*
  - (B) the amount of any examination fees paid by the individual to the licensing authority or an examination provider approved by the licensing authority.*

SECTION 2. Section 53.152, Occupations Code, as added by this Act, applies only with respect to:

- (1) an individual who is enrolled in an educational program subject to that section on or after the effective date of this Act; and
- (2) an applicant for enrollment in an educational program subject to that section who applies for enrollment in the program on or after that date.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed by the House on April 13, 2017: Yeas 131, Nays 7, 3 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1508 on May 26, 2017: Yeas 134, Nays 7, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 15, 2017.

Effective September 1, 2017.

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**TRANSFER OF CERTAIN FUNCTIONS RELATED TO  
EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICTS FROM THE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO THE TEXAS DIVISION  
OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

**CHAPTER 1019**

H.B. No. 1510

**AN ACT**

**relating to the transfer of certain functions related to emergency services districts from the Department of Agriculture to the Texas Division of Emergency Management.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 487.061, Government Code, is transferred to Subchapter C, Chapter 418, Government Code, redesignated as Section 418.053, Government Code, and amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 418.053 [487.061]. EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT PROGRAM.** (a) The *division* [department] shall serve as a resource to provide interested rural communities with:

- (1) general information about emergency services districts; and
  - (2) information and training related to the establishment of an emergency services district.
- (b) The *division* [department] may:

(1) provide to fire departments in rural areas information relating to assistance programs offered to rural volunteer firefighters, including the federal Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant program to help fire departments increase staffing and deployment capabilities; and

(2) provide to rural homeowners information relating to the benefits of volunteer fire departments, including a reduction in homeowners insurance risk ratings, lower homeowners insurance rates, and better fire protection.

SECTION 2. Sections 775.083(a), (b), and (c), Health and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) On or before January 1 of each year, a district shall file with the Texas *Division of Emergency Management* ~~[Department of Rural Affairs]~~ an annual report that includes the following:

- (1) the district's name;
- (2) the name of each county in which the district is located;
- (3) the district's business address;
- (4) the name, mailing address, and term of office of each commissioner;
- (5) the name, mailing address, and term of office of the district's general manager, executive director, and fire chief;
- (6) the name of each legal counsel or other consultant for the district; and
- (7) the district's annual budget and tax rate for the preceding fiscal year.

(b) The Texas *Division of Emergency Management* ~~[Department of Rural Affairs]~~ may not charge a fee for filing the report.

(c) The Texas *Division of Emergency Management* ~~[Department of Rural Affairs]~~ shall develop and maintain an Internet-based system that enables:

- (1) a district to securely file the report and update the district's information; and
- (2) the public to view, in a searchable format, the reports filed by districts under this section.

SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2018, the following are transferred from the Department of Agriculture to the Texas Division of Emergency Management:

(1) the powers, duties, functions, programs, and activities of the Department of Agriculture relating to the duties described by Section 418.053, Government Code, as transferred, redesignated, and amended by this Act;

(2) any obligations and contracts of the Department of Agriculture that are directly related to implementing a power, duty, function, program, or activity described by Subdivision (1) of this section; and

(3) all property and records in the custody of the Department of Agriculture that are related to a power, duty, function, program, or activity described by Subdivision (1) of this section and all funds appropriated by the legislature for that power, duty, function, program, or activity.

SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act to Section 775.083, Health and Safety Code, applies only to an annual report due on or after January 1, 2019. An annual report due before January 1, 2019, is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed by the House on May 4, 2017: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 24, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 15, 2017.

Effective September 1, 2017.